

Building Search: What a History!

Adapted from the remarks delivered by David Stein at the Mishkan Dedication Service

When did we realize that there were too many of us for our little shul on Danvers Street and that the shul did not meet our needs? More people than was comfortable or safe filled it for Shabbat services. It was not accessible.

In 1994 we began to ask difficult questions. Should we limit membership? Adopt exclusionary quotas? But these were horrible thoughts. In 1995, we floated the idea that perhaps we needed a new building. Then-president Tiela Chalmers asked Ron Wilmot, of blessed memory, and Ron's business partner Deborah Udin, to begin exploring our options.

In December 1995, Ron called to say that the Bush Street synagogue was for sale. The cost was \$1, but whoever bought it would have to remodel it without changing the façade. Over the past 15 years, we had, at different times, considered the Bush Street synagogue. It was our prospective home when we kicked off our first building campaign. But we bought Danvers Street. It came up for sale again and we shied away because of remodeling costs. When it came up this third time for just \$1, we needed to get our remodeling plans approved by the Redevelopment Agency. We needed \$50,000 just to get plans drawn up—we knew the remodeling costs would be outrageous. One long-time and extremely generous member gave Ron the \$1 and said, "that's my donation; don't ask for any more until we move in." The Bush Street synagogue option ended.

Ron took us to the Christian Science Church on Haight Street. Tiela and I enthused. It was a nice building and almost usable as is. However, in addition to the \$1.3 million asking price, it would have required \$1 million for seismic upgrading.

We considered remodeling the Danvers Street building—making the downstairs a single sanctuary and adding to the upstairs. One scenario required us to build an interior steel box

on the first floor to hold up the second floor. We tried to weld the box idea to one involving purchasing the little red house across from us on Danvers. That prospect turned sour, although Tiela still thinks it would have been great.

Deborah found an abandoned police station on 16th Street between Folsom and Harrison, a neo-Spanish and deco blend constructed out of non-reinforced masonry, now considered taboo. There was little enthusiasm among the searchers: it was really far away from Danvers Street and the Castro.

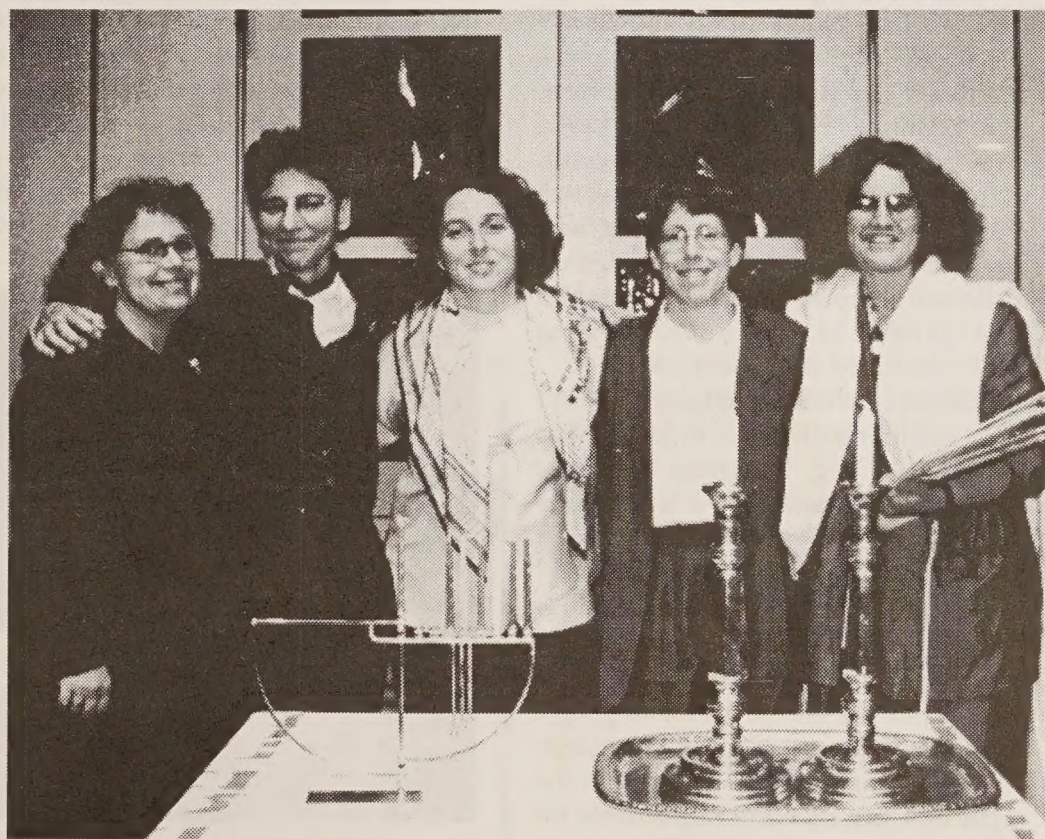
Searching remained low key until Kol Nidre 1996. Our administrator, Lea Salem, spotted a "for sale" sign on the mortuary at 16th and Dolores Streets. She called Deborah who called Ron and me. I was a little less than enthusiastic: We should hold services in a mortuary? Even though I had been inside too many times for AIDS-era funerals, I agreed to have a

Continued on page 9

Talmud Torah Events

Classes With Rabbi Litman

February marks the beginning of a new semester of Adult Education/Talmud Torah classes at CSZ. This semester will be inaugurated by three classes taught by Rabbi Litman, all beginning on Tuesday, February 2. The first is Queer Talmud, a downtown brown bag lunch and study session, meeting every other Tuesday from noon to 1 pm. Come and study traditional Jewish text, and find out what is queer about Talmud. In addition to Queer Talmud, Rabbi Litman will hold two classes on Tuesday evenings for eight consecutive weeks. From 7-8 pm, "Daily Spirituality in Judaism" will be an informal drop-in discussion group on bringing Jewish spirituality into our everyday lives. Following this class, from 8-9:30 pm, Rabbi Litman will teach "Pathways Through the Prayerbook," a study of historical and current siddurim.



President Diana Buchbinder, Building Committee members Ellie Cohen, Alice Prussin and Tiela Chalmers and Rabbi Litman at Shabbat service on dedication weekend. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Pekuach Nefesh: The Mitzvah of Preserving Life

It is a wonderful blessing to walk into Sha'ar Zahav each day. Our congregational home is alive and buzzing with study, worship, meetings and the daily activity of a vibrant synagogue community. It is with particular spiritual joy that we welcome back Ruach Ami, The Center for Jewish Healing, and the Monday evening healing service they lead in our new mishkan.



Rabbi Jane Litman

As I write this column, the building is not entirely finished, and construction continues amidst our many programs and events. Sometimes this creates unusual situations. During Chanukah, the congregation sponsored a blood drive, through the dedicated volunteer efforts of Stephan Howard. The blood drive was originally scheduled to take place in the sanctuary, but unfortunately the elevator wasn't entirely on line. So the folks from Irwin Memorial Blood Bank set up their gurneys and orange juice in the large entrance foyer.

What a sight greeted members who came to buy books at the book fair (thanks to Judith Cohen), make artwork at the art fair (thanks to Rena Franz, Ron Edelman, Beth Sousa and Leslie Einhorn), or fry latkes with the youth group that day! The mitzvah of *pekuach nefesh*, preserving life, was front and center as members and friends lined up to donate the precious gift of blood to those in need. I feel enormous pride in our community and its values.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that hosting the Blood Bank is a mixed blessing. The Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, following the lead of the Red Cross, continues to employ blood screening methods that stigmatize and scapegoat gay men. Instead of providing accurate information about risk factors, including information about testing and the practice of safe sex for all people without regard to sexual preference, current screening methods propagate the myth that gay men are responsible for AIDS. For example, two 22-year-old men who have been in a monogamous relationship since they came out are pro-

hibited from donating, but a woman who has had unsafe sex is not. This kind of screening is useless in terms of ensuring a safe blood supply.

However, it has more insidious effects. The message that such screening methods promote is that AIDS is related to status (being gay), not to practice (engaging in unsafe sex, sharing needles, etc.) and that by scapegoating and isolating people of a certain status (gay men), the "purity" of blood can be maintained. This was a cheap way for the Red Cross to shift responsibility for certain practices (such as mixing blood from many donors) of the 1980s which contributed to transfusion-related AIDS transmission. It is time for Irwin Memorial Blood Bank and the Red Cross to follow the example of the National Organ Donor registry, and stop the misleading, propagandistic and scientifically meaningless "screening."

In Jewish tradition, *pekuach nefesh*, preserving life, takes priority over almost every other mitzvah. So, even though current screening procedures further *lashon hara*, untruthful and damaging speech, we are still enjoined to give blood, if we are sero-negative. But we are not enjoined to do so without thinking. If you share my concerns, I urge you to contact the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank to express your views. Perhaps then the next time Sha'ar Zahav fulfills the important mitzvah of hosting a blood drive, it will be a double mitzvah, *pekuach nefesh*, preserving life, and *lashon hatov*, positive speech.



Our torahs enter their new home during the dedication service. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Healing Services Return to CSZ

Beginning February 1, CSZ will again host the monthly healing services sponsored by Ruach Ami: The Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. CSZ previously hosted these services at our Danvers Street location; while we were meeting at St. Matthews, the healing services were held at Congregation Sherith Israel.

On the first Monday of each month, from 6-7 pm, join with other Jews who are seeking comfort, hope or guidance; struggling physically, emotionally or spiritually; searching for a place to grieve, a prayer-discipline or a spiritual community; or looking for a respite from daily concerns.

For more information, please call Ruach Ami at 750-4197.

Purim Is Around the Corner

Be sure to mark the evening of March 1 on your calendars so you don't miss the first Purim festivities in our new Mishkan. Details of the Megillah reading and Purim party will follow. Call Renée in the CSZ office to volunteer and make this year's Purim party a smashing success.

Rabbi's Calendar

Rabbi Litman was recently on a panel about pre-marital counseling of same-gender couples at the PARR (Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis) convention.

On February 4, Rabbi Litman will speak to the Fremont chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) on religious issues and concerns in the gay community.

On February 5, Rabbi Litman's sermon title will be "Paganism, Idolatry and the Golden Calf: What Does it Mean?" On February 26, her sermon will be titled "The Guilt Offering."

Also on February 26, Rabbi Litman will host a Shabbat dinner at CSZ called "Ask the Rabbi," at which she will answer CSZ members' questions about Judaism.

Diversity Dialogue

Ethnic Diversity in Our Community

The Adult Education Committee's next dialogue exploring the diversity of our Sha'ar Zahav community will focus on ethnic diversity. A panel discussion by our members will allow us to gain a deeper understanding of what it feels like to be part of an ethnic minority in the Jewish community in general, and in the CSZ community specifically. We will also share ideas about how to create a welcoming community for an ethnically diverse population. This discussion will take place after Shabbat morning services at a potluck lunch at noon on February 13. RSVP for the potluck to Renée in the CSZ office.



Reverend Jim Mitulski (MCC), Rabbi Litman and Pastor Bombosch (St. Matthews) at Shabbat service on dedication weekend. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Aging and Ageism in the Gay Community

Spend Shabbat afternoon on February 20 learning about and discussing issues of aging, ageism and their effects on self-esteem in the gay community. The workshop will begin with the showing of a 22-minute film called, "Beauty Before Age: Growing Older in the Gay Culture."

The film critically examines the pressure to look young and attractive, the paucity of positive older role models and ways in which AIDS intensifies the fear and process of aging. The diverse group of men in the film, ranging in age from 19 to 77, offers a male perspective on a historically female issue, and illuminates the larger societal obsession with physical appearance. Following the screening, filmmaker Jonny Symons and Donovan Somera, CSZ member and community health specialist at the Cowell Student Services at Stanford University, will facilitate a discussion on the issues presented in the movie.

The workshop will begin at 1 pm at CSZ. A Shabbat morning minyan at 11 am and vegetarian potluck at noon will precede the event. All are welcome. RSVP to Renée in the CSZ office.

HIV Support Group

Each month, CSZ has a support group for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, February 13 at 3 pm: Support group, location TBA.

For further information, please call the synagogue office.

Shabbat Dinners in Our New Home

Now that we are settled in our new synagogue, we have the opportunity to fill our building with Shabbat joy and learning. One way we will do this is by hosting Shabbat dinners featuring special speakers and discussions topics, before Friday evening services. This month we have two Shabbat dinners planned.

Social Action Shabbat Dinner With the American Jewish World Service

On Friday, February 19 at 6:30 pm, we will host a speaker from the Jewish Volunteer Corps of the American Jewish World Service at the first of our new quarterly Social Action Shabbat dinners. The speaker will share his or her experiences of volunteering with the American Jewish World Service, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing non-sectarian humanitarian assistance, technical support and emergency relief to people in need in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia and the Ukraine. The volunteer corps program is an opportunity for Jewish men and women to put into action the Jewish values of tzedakah, social justice and tikkun olam (repairing the world) by serving as international volunteers in a Jewish context. The discussion should be inspiring for us at CSZ as we increase our commitment to volunteering with local tzedakah projects.

Ask the Rabbi Shabbat Dinner

Exactly where did the tradition of wearing kippot come from? Why don't we pay for High Holiday tickets at services? What do I bring when I go to a shiva house? Do you have questions about Jewish ritual, practice or history that you never have had the chance to ask? If so, come share a Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Litman on February 26 at 6:30 pm, and ask her all your unanswered questions.

Both dinners will be vegetarian and require a reservation with pre-payment by the Wednesday before the event. Call Renée in the CSZ office to make a reservation.



**NOW THAT THE CONGREGATION
HAS A NEW HOME...IT'S YOUR
TURN. CALL ME FOR AN
APPOINTMENT.**



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Looking Back

I authored my first column in February two years ago, as vice president, to give David Stein a break for a month. At the time, though I was nervous, I had a relatively easy time with the column and felt reassured that writing it was not the big deal I had thought it would be. This early success gave me, at least partially, a false sense of security about the responsibilities I was about to take on.



Diana Buchbinder

Looking back on my last 19 months as president, and realizing that I have only four months left to my term, I find myself reflecting on many things. First, even though I am not new to synagogue service or to leadership, I do not believe anything could have prepared me for what I have learned. As with any task — work, parenting, relationships — one enters with the expectation that the experience will offer an opportunity to learn new lessons, and I, at least, usually think I know what those lessons will be. And I also tend to think the lessons will be about someone, or something, else.

Some of that has been true here. I have learned that it is true that busy people usually have time for "one more thing," and that unbelievably generous people can be counted on to give "just a little more." I have been reminded again and again that a group of committed, loving individuals can create a great deal when they work together from common values. I have, on many occasions, been moved by the vision and insight of our community. On a practical level, in speaking with other congregational presidents, I have learned that not only do we do amazing work, but the high percentage of active members is the envy of them all. I have learned that other congregations use us as a model.

I have also learned much about myself during this journey. I have learned that balancing a career, parenting, a relationship and presidency takes time and attention. There have been more times than I care to admit when I have had to adjust either my own, or others',

schedules to meet all my responsibilities, and I have learned the value of having people around me who, while they might not understand what I have chosen to do, respect my choice and support me in it. I have learned the power of example, and the power of being slow to respond and practicing "restraint of pen and tongue." I have learned to listen, to be open to interpretations other than my own, and that I have high expectations.

Finally, the most valuable lesson I have learned is that, for me and for all those others of you who are involved in the act of making our synagogue as wonderful as it is, nothing of value is accomplished without sacrifice, patience, loving support, persistence and belief in the task before us. As we begin life in a new, beautiful building, I thank you for all of this.

Jewish, Gay and Proud

This letter to the editor appeared in the November 16, 1998 issue of Time magazine. Jerry is a long-time member of CSZ.

On the way home from school at the age of eight, I was beaten by a grown man because I was Jewish. At 17, at Auschwitz, I witnessed the hate crime of the century against Jews, Gypsies, gays and others. Fifty-five years later, we have ill-disguised hatred, instigated by the religious right, as well as by some of our elected representatives. How many more innocent gays and lesbians will be attacked, as was Shepard? Sign me Jewish, gay and proud of it.

— Gerald B. Rosenstein
San Francisco

Mishkan Stained Glass Windows Explained

—Robert Tat

If you missed the dedication of the Mishkan Dolores stained glass windows, you can catch it on video.

Artists Jay Schlossberg Cohen and Lucinda Shaw were commissioned to create windows for the new sanctuary that would express the spirit of our unique congregation. During dedication weekend in December, the two gave a detailed explanation of the windows' symbolism and the process by which they were created.

Their presentation was videotaped by the CSZ Oral History Project, and is available for viewing. Please contact the synagogue office if you would like to borrow a copy.



Our stained glass window artists, Lucinda Shaw and Jay Schlossberg Cohen. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

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❖ Radley Hirsch ❖

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

February 1999/Volume 22, Issue 6.



Parsley chopping at Project Open Hand, December 1998. Photo by Rick Shelton.

CSZ at Open Hand

What do Jews do on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? This past December, more than 120 volunteers from CSZ and Jewish Family and Children's Services put on funny hats, gloves and aprons. We chopped, scraped, peeled, scooped, drove around the City, and, in general, took over for the regular volunteers at Project Open Hand. We prepared and packaged food and delivered meals for Project Open Hand's clients: people living with HIV/AIDS. We were even featured on the Channel 7 news!

We want to thank all of you who volunteered your precious time off during the holidays to help with this annual event. Each year we look at the huge commitment we have taken on with a little bit of anxiety. How will we fill all of those volunteer slots? This year, we were blessed with more volunteers than we had promised. We appreciate each and every one of you who answered our call for help. We especially want to thank Sarita Groisser, co-chair of this Social Action/Tikkun Olam project. We also want to express our appreciation to Project Open Hand, which provides us with a place to be needed for a holiday mitzvah on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Are you on the Net?

Visit our web site at
www.shaarzahav.org

Toda Raba Dedication Volunteers

On the weekend of December 18-20, CSZ dedicated its new building with a host of festivities. Because of the tireless work of many volunteers, the weekend was memorable for everyone who attended. Dev Felder Noily, Dedication Committee Chair, and Renée Bauer, Program Director, wish to thank the following volunteers and participants.

Committee Members: Robin Leonard, Greta Miskatel, Nathan Robinson, Sharyn Saslafsky.

Invitation and Program Design: Trudi Hauptman.

Friday Night Service: Rabbi Litman, Brian Besser, Randy Weiss, Jose Luis Moscovich and the CSZ ensemble—Brian Besser, Steve Elman, Fred Fishman, Terri Fletcher, Joan Goldman, Rubin Gomez, Melissa Grossman-Naples, Debbi Jacobs-Levine, Julian Levant, Eileen Levy, Ruth Rainero, and their accompanists, Dan Glover, Robert Schwartz.

Friday Night Oneg: Rebecca Blumen and Suzanne Friedman, Nicole Bloom, Sue Bojdak and Debbie Yates, Judith Holiber and Kimberly Warsaw.

Saturday Night Service Set-up, Ushers and Clean-up: Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach, Allan Giannini, Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara, Joe Hample, Tony Harris, Rose Katz, Laura Lowe, Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverod, James Maclachlan and Ginger Maclachlan, Jacob Rothman, Mike Siani, Tory Weiser.

Saturday Night Party Set-up, Performance and Clean-up: Ron and Ruth Miguel, Rena Fisher, Howard Steiermann, Ray Bernstein, Drew Parker, Mark Mackler, Alison Austin, Steve Elman, Susan Lubek, Richard Weiner, Susan Unger and Pam Erwin, Jeanette Nichols, Beth Sousa, Carol Baden, Gay Iz Mir—Melinda Basker, Tiela Chalmers, Ellie Cohen, Jean Eichenbaum, Dev Felder Noily, Jeff Friedman, Judy Graboyes, Corey Weinstein.

Sunday Open House Set-up and Ushers: Geoff Benjamin, Marjorie Bennett, Ron Edelman, Jim Frazin, Sarah Goodman, Sara Haber, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Mark Klaiman.

Photography and Video: Michael Bettinger, Jennifer Hirsch, Robert Tat.

Book Fair and Gift Shop: Judith Cohen, Jeffrey Lilly, Sandy Lofchie, Jeff Rubin.

We also owe our gratitude to Max McBride and Megan Saperstein for their extraordinary hard work behind the scenes.

We appreciate the local businesses that donated their products and services to make our celebration more festive: Genesis Printing and Graphics, San Francisco Audio, Church Street Flowers, Bi-Rite Market, Intermission Café and Katz Bagels.

December Va'ad Minutes

—Joe Hample, Recorder

Lisa Katz is newly returned to the Va'ad.

Rabbi Litman gave the devar torah. The original Chanukah story from the apocryphal Book of Maccabees concerns a civil war between moderate and militant Jews. The militants eventually usurped the crown and priesthood to which they were not genealogically entitled, yet their celebration became popular as an opportunity to light candles at the darkest season. Rabbi Litman reinterpreted Chanukah with the midrash of a small cruse of oil that miraculously burned for eight days, a symbol of purity amidst chaos. At Chanukah, each of us must search for our own cruse of oil, be it faith, truth or integrity.

Administrator Lea Salem reported that the move to 290 Dolores Street is largely complete, but asked for patience if things are hard to find. She distributed literature for the UAHC regional biennial and encouraged attendance.

Rabbi Litman reported one wedding, two unveilings, one brit shalom, one bat mitzvah, one new baby, two shiva minyans, two sheloshim minyans, and one get (divorce) in the last month. Rabbi Litman's written report recommended transliteration without the guttural ch: thus hallah and barukh, rather than challah and baruch.

Program Director Renée Bauer reported in writing that the Harvey Milk event was successful, and the Adult Education, Social Action, and Project Open Hand Committees have been active. 72 of our 75 Open Hand slots have been filled; volunteers for the remaining slots may call Sarita. Everyone is encouraged to attend this weekend's dedication festivities: Renée's flier for the Sunday open house was distributed.

Educator David Shneer reported in writing that Kadimah is thriving with children's services, dedicated teachers and parents, Shabbat dinners, midweek Hebrew classes, and a monthly column in the *Forward*. Kadimah will move into 290 Dolores in January with donated furniture. Evening and parents' events are being planned.

Treasurer Arthur Slepian reported that dues are coming in at or above budget. He is hopeful that we can make our budget projection for dues.

Membership liaison Sara Haber reported that five new units have

applied for membership; the Va'ad approved them unanimously. The Va'ad also suggested that we abolish the formality of voting in new members. Sara will discuss this with the Membership and Dues Committees. Membership chair Ami Zusman is working with Robin Leonard to get more information about new members into the newsletter. Greeter responsibilities in the new building will be essentially as at St. Matthew's, with one greeter upstairs and one downstairs. A sign advising visitors that the lift is extremely slow was suggested. The janitors have the lift key, but this seems inconvenient.

We lit Chanukah candles. An executive session followed.

Members' Yahrzeits

1	Steven Richter
2	Stephen Walters
6	Ronald Wilmot
10	Allen Harris
14	Barbara Rosenblum
15	Alan Ellis
22	Leland Vogel

Dinner With Our Neighbors

The Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee is looking for volunteers to prepare and share a dinner with the shelter guests at Dolores Street Community Services Dolores Street Shelter on Sunday, February 21, from 2 to 6 pm. The shelter, which primarily serves Latino men day laborers, is located at 208 Dolores on the same block as the synagogue. In November, CSZ volunteers spent a rewarding evening preparing and sharing dinner at the shelter. Call Allan Berenstein at 863-8033 to volunteer or donate food.

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Anniversaries

2	Merry Luskin and Meredith Florian
14	Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Shuster
14	Cheryl Sena and Abby Abinanti
14	Peter Barnes and Leyna Bernstein
17	William Denebeim and Mark Vogel
28	Susan Schwartz and Juliette Schlesinger

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Kadimah Korner

—David Shneer, Educator

Kadimah Hebrew class will meet every Wednesday during February. Saturday classes will meet February 6, 20, and 27. There will be no Kadimah on Saturday, February 13 due to the President's Day holiday.

Join us February 6, at 6 pm, for Havdalah Under the Stars. Kadimah and the Bureau of Jewish Education are developing this evening activity to bring together two Jewish observances that mark the flow of time: Havdalah and Rosh Chodesh. We will be saying goodbye to Shabbat and learning how to celebrate the new month (chodesh) with the help of astronomy experts, Rabbi Litman and members of our Kadimah teaching staff.

Is your child thinking about going away to summer camp this coming summer? Or more accurately, are you looking to send a child to summer camp? Parents interested in information on Camps Swig and Newman (the UAHC camps in the Bay Area) or other Jewish summer camps should contact David Shneer at the office for more information. It's never too early to reserve space.

Parenting and Coming Out

Most parents find they have to face issues around coming out with their children and their children's teachers, school administrators and PTAs. The questions of when and how to talk to these important people come up every school year, and may change with the school, teacher and age of the child. The continuous process of coming out often strengthens a family unit, but the process may seem daunting.

Come share your experiences and learn from others in a facilitated discussion with CSZ member Chaya Rivka Mayerson, Psy.D. on Saturday, February 6, from 10 am-noon, at CSZ. Bagels will be provided and childcare for pre-Kadimah age children will be available with RSVP to Renée at the CSZ office.

Chaya Rivka is a psychologist who specializes in work with children and adults in the G/L/B/T/Q community, and has facilitated several parenting groups in San Francisco. She is a pediatric psychology fellow at UCSF, a clinician at New Leaf and has a private practice in SF.

Summer Internship Opportunities

Jewish Vocational Services is accepting applications for Kohn Summer Internships, available to Bay Area college undergraduates who have completed at least one year of college. The internships last eight weeks and provide students with the opportunity to work at various local Jewish community agencies, including the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, American Jewish Congress, Bureau of Jewish Education, Anti-Defamation League, Hillel, Holocaust Center, Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family and Children's Service. Students will work four days a week and attend a fifth day of leadership development seminars. Each student will receive a \$1,500 stipend.

To apply or obtain more information, call JVS at 391-3600 or write JVS, 77 Geary Blvd., Suite 401, San Francisco, CA 94108. The deadline for applications is April 1, 1999.

Gift Shop's New Home

—Jeff Rubin

CSZ's gift shop has moved to its permanent location in our new Mishkan. We are located on the first floor (up one flight from the entrance) adjacent to the entryway overlook, outside the synagogue office. Please visit us during our operating hours, 7:30 to 8:05 Friday nights before services. We now look forward to serving our community better. Also, thank you for your support during our time at St. Matthews; we were able to maintain our sales at the same level as at Danvers Street.

La'atid Upcoming Events

La'atid is Sha'ar Zahav's group for folks who feel young.

New First Friday Night Shabbat Dinners

La'atid invites you to a "traditional" Sephardic Shabbat dinner (the food of Spain) at Picaro Café, 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia, on Friday, February 5, 6:30 pm. RSVP to the CSZ Office or by email to us@gay.net.

After services, join everybody's favorite matchmaker, Geoff Benjamin, for a "traditional" Jewish schmooze-in. Drink some coffee or tea and make new friends at Muddy Waters Café on Church Street near 15th Street. We will meet in the corner of the oneg room near the main entryway at 10:15 pm and walk together to the café. This outing is just coincidentally one week before a certain pagan (non-Jewish) holiday about romance.

Gay Skate

Join La'atid for a wild winter night of gay roller disco on Wednesday, February 27; the cost is only \$6.00. Either meet at 8 pm at the Rolladium in San Mateo or meet at the synagogue at 7:30 pm to carpool to San Mateo. Call Renée in the CSZ office to arrange for a carpool. To get to the Rolladium from San Francisco, take Highway 101 South and exit at Poplar Avenue. Make an immediate left onto North Amphlett. The Rolladium is next to the DMV on the right-hand side.

Tot Shabbat and Purim Celebration

Toddlers, preschoolers and their families are invited to a festive Tot Shabbat, Saturday, February 27 at 10 am. We will celebrate Shabbat with a short participatory service and then prepare for Purim with a special art project.

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When Your Partner Converts

—Lyssa Friedman

What happens when you choose a non-Jew—then your partner chooses Judaism?

When my partner Daphne chose Judaism, people greeted me with "Mazel tov!" "Now you have so much more in common," someone observed.

Yet, although six-pointed stars now hung from both our necks, Daphne's conversion did more to highlight our differences than our similarities.

How?

First, Daphne would not have changed jobs without seeking my opinion, yet she had made a life-altering decision alone. As she went to the Bet Din, I did not see someone like me in our couplehood, but someone distinct from me in her singularity.

Second, Daphne had made a choice I would never be challenged to make. Some say that by returning to a Jewish life I, too, have "chosen" Judaism. But if switching from secular to observant is a choice, it feels superficial — like opting for Streit's over Manischewitz — compared to Daphne's. Part of her internal world remains a mystery to me.

But the most significant difference between us is how we define ourselves as Jews, or how we relate to our Jewish selves. If you ask what makes me a Jew, I might answer Hebrew. Tunes in minor keys. Connection to family and community. A bisel of chopped liver on a cracker.

What's missing from this list? A dialogue with God.

This, then, is the biggest difference between us. I am a Jew regardless of—or in spite of—my relationship to God. But Daphne, lacking the baggage of Hebrew school, or gefilte fish or Zionism, is a Jew because of her relationship to God.

Still, because I was born a Jew, I've been permitted to define myself by culture, or ethnicity, or a people, as if I were filling a grocery cart with Streit's or Manischewitz. And no Bet Din has checked my shopping list to see if a connection to God is on it.

I confessed my struggle with faith and belief to a friend. Raised an evangelical Christian, he has detached from the religion of his childhood, but remains in conversation with God and comfortable in his spirituality.

Because he knew the place Jewish ritual occupies in my life, he could not

have been more astonished than if I had started speaking in tongues.

"Whether or not you feel God's presence," he said, "God has been good to you."

So now, years after breaking the glass with a non-Jew, I look across the dinner table at a Jew. I roll matzoh balls. She studies Torah. We take turns lighting Shabbat candles. I accept Daphne's belief that God joined her at the mikveh. She accepts my doubt.

And I begin to understand what my friend said:

God *has* been good to me.

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 12/11 **Sue Martin and Lisa Hamburger**, in honor of Sean Michael's Brit Shalom.
- 1/8 **Sarah Goodman**, in honor of her 50th birthday.
- 1/15 The families of **Marsha and Blanche Blachman**, in honor of Ben Blachman.

Thanks to **Michael Chertok** for generously sponsoring the bimah flowers on December 25, in honor of his parents' visit.

Chocolate for Pesach

Sharffen Berger Chocolates has agreed to donate the chocolate for Jeff Forman's class "Chocolate Desserts for Pesach." If you haven't tried these chocolates, you are in for an amazing experience.

In this class, Jeff, a CSZ Va'ad member and classically trained professional, will adapt classic French desserts for Passover. Cost of the class, which will be held in early March, will be on a sliding scale of \$120 to \$180. All proceeds will go to the capital campaign. Please contact the CSZ office to sign up.

Naches

To **Amy Scharf and Kirsten Gustavson**, on the naming of their son, Benjamin William Gustavson-Scharf.

To **Antoinette and Dey Rose**, on the naming of their daughter, Genevieve Ursula Rose, and the honoring of their son, Harper Wolf Rose.

To **Annie Downs**, on becoming bat mitzvah.

To **Henri Neilson**, on his entrance into the covenant.

To **Beth Sousa**, on her entrance into the covenant.

To **Jeff Rubin**, on his promotion to assistant retail manager at Lenscrafters.

A JOURNEY EXPLORING ISRAEL OF PRIDE

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For information, call Cindy Rogoway at **415.512.6213**

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of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties

Upcoming Tikkun Olam Projects

The Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee has two volunteer projects coming up in March and needs volunteers to sign up now.

Sha'ar Zahav is teaming up with Jewish Family and Children's Services' Tenderloin Outreach Project on Friday March 5, from 1 pm to 3:15 pm, to host a lunch for isolated Jewish seniors who live in the Tenderloin. JFCS's Tenderloin Outreach Project organizes these luncheons in partnership with other Jewish organizations eight times per year. This year CSZ has agreed to be the sponsor at the annual Purim lunch.

As the sponsoring organization, we need to provide three or four volunteers to set up, serve and clean up the lunch and schmooze with the guests. We are also financially responsible for paying \$100 for the lunch provided at cost by the Kosher Nutrition project of the JCC. Please call Renée in the CSZ office to volunteer, or send in a check made out to CSZ earmarked for the Harvey Milk Social Action Fund to help sponsor this important community outreach project.

Also, CSZ volunteers will take part in the San Francisco Interfaith Council's Temporary Shelter Project, which pro-

vides hot meals and temporary shelter to homeless San Franciscans during the winter months. Congregations in the faith community have joined together in an effort to care for homeless women, men and children either by offering their building as a shelter or by taking responsibility to provide food and volunteers on specific evenings. CSZ will do its part on March 14, 15 and 16 by providing food and volunteers for the shelter guests at St. Paulus Lutheran Church. The Social Action Committee is organizing volunteers to cook, deliver and serve food on all three nights. Sign up for this mitzvah project today by calling Laura Lowe at 247-2409 or Renée in the CSZ office.

Building Search

continued from page 1

look. Our then-vice president, Diana Buchbinder, joined Deborah, Ron, Lea, Tiela and me. My first response was "the mauve walls will have to go. And the pews—bleached with antique white highlights—out!" But we began quietly outdoing one another in our fantasies about the building. Outside, Diana said to me, "David, it's a good possibility.

Please pursue it." The others agreed and I realized what an enormous responsibility being president was.

Within two months, our committee grew to include Alice Prussin, Ellie Cohen and a few others. We held informal discussions with the members whose generosity helped us buy Danvers Street and who gave significantly to our Ma'ayan campaigns. The Va'ad held a special meeting right after Thanksgiving. We threw around a lot of numbers, but Ron and I guessed that we'd need at least \$250,000 in cash to close quickly. We asked Va'ad members to write down unofficial pledges—the amount totaled about \$200,000. I was blown away. I knew then that buying and renovating the mortuary was more than possible.

At the special congregational meeting on December 22, we were prepared to answer almost any question: costs, timing, safety, accessibility. Ron, very weak and in the waning days of his life, delivered a beautiful presentation on the realities of the purchase and the pitfalls and benefits for which we'd have to be prepared. It was a magic moment—a fusion of a vision, our CSZ spirit and reality. We knew we could do it. Our membership agreed, loudly.

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Contributions

AIDS Fund

Paul Glackman.
C. Greenbaum.
Neil Hart, in memory of Tim Elliott.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Jerry Rosenstein.
Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Andrew Stuart.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Dev Felder Noily, in honor of David Stein.
Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Leo Luskin.

Children's Education Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.
Mark Freeman.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.
Annie Winters and Nina Raff, in memory of Roy Winters and Lillian Raff.

General Fund

Mike Abramson, in memory of Minnie Kronick.
Keith Barton.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Annette Rosen.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ellen Albin.
Lou Beth and Bill Nemzin, in honor of Lisa Katz, Sharon Heath and Miriam Heath-Katz.
Emma Buchbinder, in honor of Joyce Garay.
Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak, in memory of Andrew Stuart.
Susan Colson and Maureen Anderson.
Sarah Comerchero, in memory of Isaac Judah Comerchero.
Emily Duskow, in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.
Larry Dwyer and Anthony Lecours, in honor of the wedding of Dennis May and Daryl Morrell.
Riva and Bob Frederick, in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.
Ann and Martin Gelfand, in honor of Jane Gelfand.
Michael Gitt and George Gibson, in memory of Dennis Sheffler.
Burton M. Greenberg, in memory of Minnie Kronick.
Jeffrey Halpern.
Michael Kay, in memory of George and Sylvia Kay.
Philip and Anne Lawrence, in honor of Eli Jacob Kapsack.
Charles Lev.
Ron and Ruth Miguel, in memory of Sidney Weiss.
Victor Mitnick and Nancy Nagel.
Susan R. Plotkin, in honor of the birth of

Jones Kimble Bealum.

Steve Proffitt, in honor of Alan Kaufman.
Frances Ravel, in honor of Anya Prussin.
Debra Rein and Sonika Tinker, in memory of Andrew Stuart.
Jerry Rosenstein, in memory of Thelma Fox Chalmers.
Carl Sandler.
Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Thelma Fox Chalmers.
Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Jay Schlachter.
Jeffrey Sherman, in honor of the birth of Sean Michael Martin-Hamburger.
Glenn Tasky.
Mike Zimmerman, in memory of Thelma Fox Chalmers.
Mike Zimmerman, in memory of Andrew Stuart.

Library Fund

Nina Raff and Annie Winters, in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu and Stan Hauer.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Alexandra Alznauer.
Ben Bank and Brian Jersky, in memory of Pauline Jersky.
Jonathan Bell.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Allan Craig.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Cheryl Orvis.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Andrew Stuart.
Louis Blumberg and Ellen Friedman, in honor of Alice Prussin and Tiela Chalmers.
Mindy Bokser.
Cohler Family.
Marriam Cramer Ring.
Barbara, Dafna and Ruby Cymrot-Wu, in memory of Isa Leah.
Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed, in memory of Jerome Eisenman.
Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed, in honor of Jonah Levy's becoming bar mitzvah.
Julia Friedlander, in memory of Ruth Zuckert Burns.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in memory of Andrew Stuart.
Salomon and Rebeca Glinsky, in honor of Simon Glinsky.
Prax Gore.
Natalie and Jim Jalenak.
Valerie Joseph, in honor of Renée Bauer.
Kailin Koch.
Herbert D. Kosovitz.
Daniel Langholz.
Carol and Jordan Levitin.
Stuart Leviton.

Al and Leanore Loeb, in honor of Michael Chertok.

Andrea Palash, in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.
Jeffrey Piade.
Vaughan Rachel and Dorothy Golove.
Debra Rein and Sonika Tinker.
Russell-Shapiro Philanthropic Fund.
Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of Cate Muther and Dennis Aftergut.
Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg.
David Williams and Jacob Fernandez.
Judith Wolfe, in memory of Andrew Stuart.
Judith Wolfe, in honor of Claire Rappoport's new home.

Donations to Mishkan Dolores in memory of Thelma Fox Chalmers

Charlotte and Juerg Baenziger.
Bar Association of San Francisco.
Allan Berenstein.
James Carlson.
Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak.
Sharron Fein.
Jeff Forman and Paul Nemrow.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart.
Jonathan Funk and John Arnold.
Elizabeth Goldblatt, Amy Louis and Kate Louis Goldblatt.
Nancy Koch.
Ron Lezell.
Sharyn Saslafsky.
Liz and Mike Schaffer.

Prayerbook Fund

Mickey and Irv Friedman, in memory of Andrew Stuart.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Henry Carrey, in memory of Abraham Carrey and Hyman Post.
Lisa Hamburger and Sue Martin, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman and the CSZ staff for their help with Sean's brit shalom.
Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Evelyn Dunn.

Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of A. J. Berenstein.

Special thanks to the following people for their in-kind donations:

Jonathan Bell and Virtual Studios Corporation, for office and classroom furniture and a PC computer.
Nancy Igdaloff and Monica Levin, for three pieces of artwork.
Susan Unger, for a Panasonic RX-CT950 portable stereo system.
Frank Yellin and Mark Showalter, for a Power Macintosh computer.
Frank Yellin, for an Ericsson Digital cellular phone DF 388vi.



Hardworking co-coordinator Laura Lowe at Project Open Hand, December 1998.
Photo by Rick Shelton.

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New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Michael and Ian Farmer

Mel Lehrbaum

Jonathan Robinson, Heidi Biegel,
Jasmine and Maia Robinson

Kevin "Doc" Reames

Stephanie Silverman and Hayden Houser

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

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DRIVER AVAILABLE. Retired engineer, excellent driver, looking for extra work. Available as a driver to suit your needs. Call Yuriy (551-1292).

POSITION WANTED. Educated woman in her 50s is available as a part-time babysitter or to assist elderly people in going for walks and doing their shopping. References available upon request. Call Polina (551-1292).

CO-PARENTING OPPORTUNITY DESIRED. I am a 42-year old established, professional, Jewish, gay man living in San Francisco who eagerly seeks a lesbian (or lesbian couple) for the co-parenting of a child. Details of our shared responsibilities, both custodial and financial, are flexible. I believe it's very important to have a healthy balance amongst cultural, spiritual, open-minded family and community values. Becoming a parent has been my dream ever since I can remember. How about with you? If so, please contact me at 282-5577.

SEARCHING FOR SHARE RENTAL: Former CSZ member Bill Ashley-Dobbin is looking to come home. I am a gay 54-year-old nonsmoker living on a fixed income. I can pay about \$300 per month. After laughter contact Leonard Brill locally at 824-7580, or Bill at 1010 University Avenue #157 San Diego, CA 92103-3398, 619/284-8919.

LESBIAN COUPLES with one child needed for dissertation research on couple relationship and decision-making regarding having another child. Participation involves completing questionnaires. For information, please call 415/273-7252 or email ddesmond@sirus.com.

CO-PARENT WANTED. I am a 34-year-old warm, educated, financially secure, CSZ member who will make a great dad. Looking for a woman or couple in the area interested in co-parenting. Flexibility, communication, stability, and raising the child in a loving and nurturing environment key. Call 415/552-9212.

OUR FAMILY IS GROWING & we need more space! We are current CSZ members who are expecting the arrival of our first child in April 1999. We are desperately seeking an affordable two bedroom flat, apartment or house to rent. Please call Ellen & Stephanie at 415/285-3626 or 415/552-6734 with any possible leads.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

TROPICAL PARADISE—Kauai vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Mike Abramson, on the death of his mother, Minnie Kronick.

Susan Mizner, on the death of her uncle, John Mizner.

Sharyn Saslafsky, on the death of her friend, Bill Jung.



CSZ Ensemble performs during the Shabbat dedication service. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



Birthdays

1	Joan Goldman
1	Alisa Weiner
2	Jonah Birnbaum
3	Michael Begley
3	Paula Fleisher
3	Jacob Robinson
4	Marc Breindel
5	Patricia Byers
5	Steve Weitz
5	Ami Zusman
6	Steven Diller
7	Oscar Klausner
7	Ida Kuluk
9	Fred Fishman
9	Mark Freeman
9	Amy Gentile
10	Audrey Adelson
10	Ruth Miguel
10	Pascal Peterson
10	Laura Rosenthal-Bauer
10	Elias Ross-Trupin
11	Emma Abinanti-Sena
11	Marion Williamson
12	Samuel Dick-Gelmis
12	Joan Lefkowitz
13	Leva Choden
13	Dafna Wu
14	Rimma Ashkinadze
14	Sara Feinstein Shor
14	Allan Giannini
14	Irene Ogus
14	Beth Ross
14	Susan Unger
16	Alexandra Alznauer
16	Chuck Cohen
17	Barry Siegel
18	Lauren Augusta
18	Sheila Manalo
20	James Edlin
20	Hilary Zaid
21	Sandy Lofchie
21	Amy Scharf
21	Andrew Schwartz
22	Carol Cabell
22	Susan Tubbesing
24	Rena Fischer
24	Joyce Newstat
25	Nancy Silverrod
25	Alex Ingersoll
26	Ethan Frazin
26	Ari Grossman-Naples
27	Nancy Brunn
27	Benjamin Rainero-de Haan
27	Neil Rosenbaum
28	Julie Dorf
28	Steven Gaynes
28	Susie Kisber



Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-2262
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman

rabbijanelitman@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

President, Diana Buchbinder
(337-6319, threebuchs@sprynet.com, or president@shaarzahav.org)
First Vice President, David Gellman

Second Vice President, Susan Tubbesing

Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
Recorder, Joe Hample

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Ellie Cohen
Jeff Forman
Sarita Groisser
Sara Haber
Lisa Katz
Robin Leonard
Eileen Levy
Jacob Rothman
David Stein (ex officio)
Robert Tat

CSZ Staff:

Educator, David Shneer
educator@shaarzahav.org
Administrator, Lea Salem
office@shaarzahav.org
Program Director, Renée Bauer
programdirector@shaarzahav.org
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Melanie Kushnir
Youth Advisor, Meredith Fenton

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Sue Bojdak
Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Baby Chavurah, Melissa and Ari Grossman-Naples
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building & Grounds, Arthur Cohen
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruth Rainero
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dor Rishon, open
Dues Liaison, Eric Temple

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

East Bay Services, open
Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin
Environmental Action, Barak Gale and Brian Besser
Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Robert Gutterman
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Ami Zusman
Newsletter, Robin Leonard
Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin
Personnel, Susan Tubbesing
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Lyssa Friedman
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, Ilana Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, Neil Grungras
Women's Chavurah, open

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World

Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.

1 Monday
15 Shevat

- 6 pm, Healing service
- 7 pm, Children's Education Board

2 Tuesday
16 Shevat

- Noon, Queer Talmud
- 6:30 pm, Dues committee
- 7 pm, Daily Spirituality in Judaism class
- 8 pm, Pathways Through the Prayerbook class

3 Wednesday
17 Shevat

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

4 Thursday
18 Shevat

- 7 pm, Leadership Development class

5 Friday
19 Shevat

- 5:19 pm, Candlelighting
- 6:30 pm, La'atid Shabbat dinner, Picaro Café
- 7 pm, Early service led by Paul Cohen
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Yithro, led by Rabbi Litman and Sarita Groisser; sermon by Rabbi Litman

6 Saturday
20 Shevat

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Parent Education "Coming Out and Parenting"
- 6 pm, Kadimah Havdalah Under the Stars

7 Sunday
21 Shevat

8 Monday
22 Shevat

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout/proofreading

9 Tuesday
23 Shevat

- 7 pm, Daily Spirituality in Judaism class *Rena Fisher,*
- 8 pm, Pathways Through the Prayerbook class

10 Wednesday
24 Shevat

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

11 Thursday
25 Shevat

12 Friday
26 Shevat

- 5:27 pm, Candle lighting
- 7:15 pm, Niggun service, led by Jhos Singer
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Mishpatim/Shekalim, led by Tova Green and Jonathan Pannor

13 Saturday
27 Shevat

No Kadimah

- 10 am, Shabbat service, led by Brian Besser
- Noon, Diversity Dialogue on Ethnicity and potluck
- 3 pm, HIV Support Group

14 Sunday
28 Shevat

15 Monday
29 Shevat

- 7 pm, Membership committee

16 Tuesday
30 Shevat

- Noon, Queer Talmud
- 7 pm, Daily Spirituality in Judaism class
- 8 pm, Pathways Through the Prayerbook class

17 Wednesday
1 Adar I

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

18 Thursday
2 Adar I

- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim committee

19 Friday
3 Adar I

- 5:34 pm, Candle lighting
- 6:30 pm, Shabbat Dinner and Discussion with Jewish World Service
- 8:15 pm, East Bay service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Terumah, led by Patricia Lin and Jeff Piade; sermon by Patricia Lin

20 Saturday
4 Adar I

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 11 am, Shabbat morning minyan and vegetarian potluck
- 1 pm, Aging and Ageism in the Gay Community

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services

21 Sunday
5 Adar I

- 2 pm, Social Action Meal Project at Dolores Street Shelter

22 Monday
6 Adar I

23 Tuesday
7 Adar I

- 7 pm, Leadership Development class
- 7 pm, Daily Spirituality in Judaism class
- 8 pm, Pathways Through the Prayerbook class

24 Wednesday
8 Adar I

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

25 Thursday
9 Adar I

- 6:30 pm, Ritual committee

26 Friday
10 Adar I

- 5:42 pm, Candle lighting
- 6:30 pm, Shabbat Dinner "Ask the Rabbi"
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Tetzavveh/Zachor, led by Rabbi Litman and Debby Gelber; sermon by Rabbi Litman

27 Saturday
11 Adar I

- 9:30 am, Kadimah (Purim Celebration)
- 10 am, Tot Shabbat service and Purim Art Project
- 8 pm, La'atid Roller Disco

28 Sunday
12 Adar I

East Bay Services

February 19, location TBA.
For information, call Larry Wexler (510/523-6775).

MARCH FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Please submit articles via e-mail to robinl@nolo.com. If you do not have e-mail, please submit them on a 3½-inch disk and mail to CSZ. *No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.*

Adult Education Winter Calendar

Talmud Torah • תלמוד תורה

Talmud/תלמוד v. Study or learning. Torah/תורה n. Jewish content.

Diversity Dialogues

Panel discussions & Shabbat lunch
Saturday 12:00-1:30 pm
Feb. 13 • March 13 • April 10
Come once or come often

Opportunities for the congregation to explore our own diversity...in a few of its forms. All are welcome!

February: Ethnic diversity
March: Gender identity and sexuality
April: Jewish views of God

Queer Talmud

Rabbi Jane Litman
Tue. noon-1:00 pm
Feb 2 & 16 • March 2, 16, & 30 April 13 & 27
582 Market, 10th Floor
\$10 non-member fee
Come once or come often

Clear your Tuesday lunchtime calendar and drop-in for some traditional text-based learning with Rabbi Litman and other CSZ members. This spring we will explore texts on closeting and coming out and on physicality and spirituality.

Women's History Haudallah

Sarah Schulman
co-sponsored by MCC
Saturday, March 6
7:00-9:00 PM
All are welcome

Celebrate women's history month and international women's day at this special evening with Sarah Schulman. Ms. Schulman is a Jewish lesbian writer, community organizer and playwright. She is the author of many books including: Empathy & Girls, Vision and Everything.

Daily Jewish Spirituality

Rabbi Jane Litman
Tues. 7:00-8:00 pm
February 2 • 8 weeks
\$8 non-member fee
Come once or come often

This course will be an open discussion about using the Mitzvot and Kabbalistic meditations to experience personal spirituality in our daily lives. Together we will study and prepare to use daily meditations during Omer, the forty day period between Passover and Shavuot.

Hebrew In a Day

Anat Wolins
A Lehrhaus Judaica Class
Sunday, March 7
2:00-6:30 pm
\$30 mbr./\$40 non-mbr.

Through the use of games, songs and taped conversation this course will introduce you to the aleph-bet, vowels and essential pronunciation and sight-reading skills. It is a great beginning for your Hebrew studies!

Pathways Through the Prayerbook

Rabbi Jane Litman
Tues. 8:00-9:30 pm
February 2 • 8 weeks
\$70 non-member fee
Pre-registration necessary

We will study the history of Jewish worship beginning with Solomon's temple in ancient Israel, & continuing with Rabbinic transformations of that ritual. The course will examine the structure and content of different historical siddurim, and focus on contemporary innovations since the emergence of Reform Judaism.

Trail Midrash

Jacob Rothman
Prudence Carter
Shabbat Mornings
9:30 at CSZ
10:15 at the trailhead
March 27 • April 24
Sites TBA
Come once or come often

Spend Shabbat morning hiking in Bay Area parks ... creating Midrash. Bring songs, poetry, & writings that complement the week's Torah portion. March's hike is for intermediate level hikers. April's is for beginners.

Passover Prep. Class

Rabbi Jane Litman
Thurs. March 24 7:00 pm
Sat. March 27 11:00 am
\$10 non-member fee
Pre-registration requested

Make this Pesach the best one ever. Discover traditions from Jewish communities throughout the world which will add depth, meaning and creativity to your seder and observance of Passover.

All Classes will be held at Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores Street, unless otherwise noted.
For information & registration, call the CSZ office, 415-861-6932.